A Guide to the APS/Penn Press Partnership

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The APS Press & Penn Press

A Relaunched Press and a Newly Launched Publishing Partnership

As of July 1, 2023, the American Philosophical Society (APS) and University of Pennsylvania Press joined forces to distribute and market the books and journals published by the APS. Both the APS and Penn Press’s home university are products of Benjamin Franklin’s fertile imagination, and this new partnership brings together the distinctive strengths of two pillars of Philadelphia’s intellectual landscape.

The APS is the oldest learned society in the United States, founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of “promoting useful knowledge.” In keeping with Franklin’s vision, the APS is currently relaunching its publishing program, producing a new portfolio of publications that will promote and explore the dynamics of “useful knowledge” in today’s multidisciplinary context. The APS has a rich backlist of more than 1,000 books, including many landmark works. The APS also publishes two distinguished journals, Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society and Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, which will be published as a part of Penn Press’s robust journals program.

Based at the University of Pennsylvania, which Franklin launched in the 1750s, Penn Press was originally incorporated with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in
1890—among the earliest such imprints in America. One of the Press’s first books, published in 1899, was a landmark as well as an example of the Press’s close ties to its home city—The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study, by renowned reformer, scholar, and social critic W.E.B. Du Bois. Today, Penn Press publishes more than 100 new books a year and 22 journals, as well as maintaining an active backlist of more than 3,000 titles.

In this new partnership, Penn Press will provide the APS with distribution, publicity, marketing, sales, rights representation, and other publishing services that will give APS Press books and journals—and their authors—unprecedented access to readers via online merchants and bookstores, through exhibits at academic meetings, domestic and international sales representation, and subsidiary rights agency for translation in languages around the world.

In keeping with the recent practice among the major university presses, the APS Press books backlist will be digitized and made available to libraries, suppliers, and booksellers in print-on-demand and e-book formats all over the world, gaining greater exposure for our publications everywhere.

The next two items on the APS Press’s agenda with Penn Press include the publication of an APS Press Launch Catalog, which will be our calling card for scholars, the media, and the international publishing community as we approach 2024, and the introduction of a new universal book and journal cover design that will strengthen the APS Press brand through a powerful and attractive graphic identity.

Further developments include the strengthening of our digital presence through enhanced social media promotion, an APS Press presence on the Penn Press website, and the eventual development of a new APS Press page on the APS website that will display both forthcoming and backlist titles and connect visitors to the Penn Press website for book and journal e-commerce purchases.
**APS Books**

The APS Press publishes scholarly books across the disciplines. The inaugural APS Press list to be distributed by Penn Press will commence in 2024. Published under the APS Books imprint, these titles will include a combination of new books and classic reprints from the APS backlist, as well as updated editions of the APS Yearbook. They will appear in the forthcoming Launch Catalog and in future notifications, both online and in print.

Meanwhile, 2023 books to be published by the APS Press and distributed by Penn Press include the following:

- *Alexander von Humboldt: The English Essays* by Oliver Lubrich and Thomas Nehrlich (eds.)
- *The Beginnings of Shi'i Studies in Germany: Rudolf Strothmann and His Correspondence with Carl Heinrich Becker, Ignaz Goldziher, Eugenio Griffini, and Cornelis van Arendonk, 1910 through 1926* by Sabine Schmidtke
- *Beth Shean Studies: Aspects of Religion, History, Art, and Archaeology in Hellenistic and Roman Nysa-Scythopolis* by Irene Bald Romano and Kyle W. Mahoney
- *Evidence: The Use and Misuse of Data* by Robert M. Hauser and Adrianna Link (eds.)
- *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586–1936* by Aaron Spencer Fogleman and Robert Hanserd
- *Isaac Israeli’s The Definition of Fever and Its Essence in Its Hebrew Translations* by Lola Ferre
- *John Milton Among the Neapolitans: Mansus—Contexts, Texts, Intertexts* by Estelle Haan

“Alexander von Humboldt,” James Reid Lambdin, 1856. APS.

“Peacocks eye (fish), Chaetodon ocellatus,” Titian Ramsay Peale, March 1821. APS.
APS Journals

The relaunched APS journals programs will update the Society’s two venerable journals, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* and *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*.

*Proceedings*, first published in 1838, is a quarterly journal that includes papers read at the APS’s biannual Member Meetings, biographical memoirs of APS Members, and occasional peer-reviewed articles by prominent professionals, scholars, and scientists. We are planning to add a new feature to *Proceedings*: field report essays from recipients of APS grants who have completed scholarly projects in the sciences and humanities. This fall will see the publication of a double issue of *Proceedings* with a return to quarterly issues in 2024. The fall double issue will include an article on “Chief Manuel’s 1651 Timucua Letter: The Oldest Letter in a Native Language of the United States” co-authored by anthropologist George Aaron Broadwell and historian Alejandra Dubcovsky; David W. Maxey’s piece on “An Unsolved Mystery: Angelica Kauffman’s Elusive Self-Portrait”; Ron Fairman’s essay on “Lincoln and Marfan Syndrome” based on his presentation at the 2019 APS Member Meeting in April; and several other works, including seven biographical memoirs of deceased APS Members.

*Transactions* is the oldest scholarly publication in North America, dating back to 1771 and covering various fields of study, ranging from 18th-century American history to the history of science, to various topics in the humanities and scholarly practice. *Transactions*, which had been publishing a combination of edited issues and monographs, will be moving to a quarterly, all-thematic issue format beginning in 2024. The journal will draw its content from papers given at APS conferences and workshops, as well as a new annual “Useful Knowledge” issue selected from the APS blog, with plans for possible issues drawn from thematically organized grantees’ field reports, similar to those scheduled to appear in *Proceedings*. The theme of the first issue of *Transactions* that will appear in 2024 is “Indigenous Studies in Archives and Beyond: Relationships, Reciprocities, and Responsibilities,” edited by Jennifer O’Neal of the University of Oregon. Articles reflect important changes in various fields as institutions and researchers engage in innovative community-engaged projects that center and celebrate Indigenous history, culture, and ways of knowing. Most importantly, these essays show the importance of honoring the cultural, intellectual, and political sovereignty of Indigenous peoples by reconnecting, restoring, and returning collections to Native Nations and Indigenous communities.
From Manuscript to Market: The Publishing Process

PEER REVIEW: The APS Press publishes peer-reviewed books and journals. Its publications are discussed and judged by the APS Press Editorial Board, and its Director and staff report to the APS Committee on Publications, which meets semiannually. The APS Press considers manuscripts from all scholarly disciplines. All manuscripts are reviewed by at least two qualified scholars, chosen for their subject knowledge.

PUBLISHING AGREEMENTS: Contracts covering APS books and journal articles are between the APS Press and our authors.

EDITING, PRODUCTION, AND DESIGN: The APS Press works with our Penn Press partners to copy edit, design, and produce most of our books and produce our journals. This helps to ensure the efficiency of the publishing process and quality control of our publications.

PUBLICITY, MARKETING, AND SALES: The Penn Press team handles all publicity, marketing, and sales. APS Press books are warehoused in the United States by Penn Press’s domestic distributor, Ingram Content. Ingram distributes in the Americas/Western Hemisphere (North America, South America, and the Caribbean), while Combined Academic Publishers distribute our books for the rest of the world.

APS Press Staffing

Working with the Penn Press team, the Relaunch is made possible by current APS Press staff:

ALISON BENINATO, who had been the Press’s Managing Editor, has assumed the new job of APS Press Operations Manager. Alison is responsible for the editing and production of in-house publications such as the APS Yearbook and Newsletter, and with coordinating communications between the Press and other units throughout the APS.

KATE TYLER WALL, who joins us from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR), is the new Managing Editor of Transactions and of APS Books. Kate brings deep editorial experience to the job, and has worked extensively with the Penn Press production department, further abetting the communications between the APS Press and our new partner.

DR. LAURA SPERO has joined the APS Press as the new Managing Editor of Proceedings. Laura brings extensive journal publishing experience from her role at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at Penn and, like Kate, has worked with the Penn Press team in the past, further deepening the relationship between our two organizations.

PETER J. DOUGHERTY (pdougherty@amphilsoc.org) is formerly the Director of Princeton University Press and currently Director of the APS Press. He was elected a Member of the APS in 2023.

Benjamin Franklin’s 1743 Proposal for the American Philosophical Society

About the American Philosophical Society

The American Philosophical Society, the oldest learned society in the United States, was founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin for the purpose of “promoting useful knowledge.” In the 21st century we sustain this mission in three principal ways. We honor and engage leading scholars, scientists, and professionals through elected membership and opportunities for interdisciplinary, intellectual fellowship, particularly in our semi-annual Meetings. We support research and discovery through grants and fellowships, lectures, publications, prizes, exhibitions, and public education. We serve scholars through a research library of manuscripts and other collections internationally recognized for their enduring historic value. The American Philosophical Society’s current activities reflect the founder’s spirit of inquiry, provide a forum for the free exchange of ideas, and convey our conviction that intellectual inquiry and critical thought are inherently in the best interest of the public.

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About University of Pennsylvania Press

True to its Philadelphia roots, Penn Press is well-known for its distinguished list of publications in American history and culture, including innovative work on the transnational currents that surrounded and shaped the republic from the colonial period through the present, as well as prize-winning publications in urban studies. The Press is equally renowned for its publications in European history, literature, and culture from late antiquity through the early modern period. Penn Press’s social science publications tackle contemporary political issues of concern to a broad readership of citizens and scholars, notably including a long-standing commitment to publishing path-breaking work in international human rights. Penn Press also publishes outstanding works in archaeology, economic history, business, and Jewish Studies in partnership with local institutions.

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